

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EUR-25

AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /170 W
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R 190957Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1147

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IN , PK, BG

SUBJ: REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANI POWS AND OTHER DETAINEES

REF: ISLAMABAD 7972

SUMMARY: GOP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT REPATRIATION OF PAK POWS FROM INDIA WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 28 BY TRAIN. GOP EXPECTS BENGALEE-BIHARI EXCHANGE, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 19, TO MOVE 500-600 PERSONS EACH WAY DAILY. FORMER BENGALEE MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVANTS WILL BE FIRST TO LEAVE PAKISTAN. PAKS CALCULATE THAT TOTAL OF 46,000 FORMER MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVANTS (INCLUDING FAMILIES) PLUS APPROXIMATELY 96,000 NON-GOVERNMENT BENGALLEES ARE SEEKING TO LEAVE PAKISTAN. ACCORDING PAK OFFICIAL, GOP PRIVATELY IS DISAPPOINTED AT RATE GOI HAS ALLEGEDLY SCHEDULED FOR POW RETURN, WHICH PAKS CLAIM WILL TAKE MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE. END SUMMARY.

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MONTHS TO COMPLETE. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP SPOKESMAN TOLD PRESS EVENING SEPTEMBER 18 THAT PAKS HAD BEEN INFORMED FIRST CONTINGENT OF POWS FROM INDIA WOULD BE REPATRIATED SEPTEMBER 28, DELIVERED TO INDIA-PAK BORDER AT WAGAH BY TRAIN. SECOND TRAIN WITH ADDITIONAL POWS AND SOME CIVILIAN INTERNEES SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT BORDER FOLLOWING DAY. ACCORDING SPOKESMAN, TOTAL OF 1,680 PERSONS WILL BE REPATRIATED ON THOSE TWO DAYS.

2. SPOKESMAN OUTLINED GOP PLANS FOR RECEPTION OF RETURNING POWS, WHICH INVOLVE HOLDING THEM IN RECEPTION CAMPS FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AND THEN SENDING THEM HOME. ALL RETURNEES WILL BE GIVEN TWO MONTHS LEAVE PLUS ADVANCE PAY FOR THAT PERIOD AND FREE TRANSPORTATION TO ANY LOCATION IN PAKISTAN.

3. EXPANDING ON EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT RE EXCHANGE OF BENGALLEES AND BIHARIS BY UNHCR-CHARTERED AIRCRAFT (REFTEL), SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EACH OF TWO CHARTERED AIRCRAFT WAS SCHEDULED MAKE TWO ROUNDTrips BETWEEN LAHORE AND DACCA DAILY FROM SEPTEMBER 20, WITH TOTAL OF FROM 500 TO 600 PERSONS MOVED IN EACH DIRECTION DAILY. FIRST GROUPS OF BENGALLEES TO LEAVE PAKISTAN WILL CONSIST MAINLY OF FORMER PAK ARMY PERSONNEL WHO OPTED FOR BANGLADESH. THEY WILL BE FOLLOWED DURING NEXT WEEK BY SENIOR BENGALLEE FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS. PAKS UNDERSTAND THAT FIRST GROUPS ARRIVING FROM BANGLADESH WILL BE DRAWN FROM INMATES OF TWO CAMPS IN DACCA AND CHITTAGONG, MOST OF WHOM ARE OF PAKISTANI DOMICILE. TOTAL OF 2,540 IN THIS CATEGORY ARE EXPECTED IN INITIAL MOVEMENT.

4. ASKED ABOUT OVER-ALL NUMBER OF PERSONS EXPECTED TO BE INVOLVED IN EXCHANGES, SPOKESMAN SAID TOTAL OF 9,318 BENGALLEE FORMER MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAD OPTED FOR BANGLADESH ARE NOW IN PAKISTAN; ASSUMING FIVE FAMILY MEMBERS FOR EACH, TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THIS CATEGORY WOULD BE 46,590. IN ADDITION, GOP HAS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 96,000 NON-GOVERNMENT BENGALLEES IN PAKISTAN WOULD SEEK REPATRIATION. SPOKESMAN UNABLE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDE RELIABLE ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF NON-BENGALLEES EXPECTED TO COME TO PAKISTAN FROM BANGLADESH. ICRC HAD COME UP WITH FIGURE OF 60,000, HE SAID, BUT PAKS UNDERSTOOD THIS WAS PURELY "THEORETICAL" FIGURE.

5. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRGEN FOR UN AFFAIRS, M.A. BHATTY, TOLD POL COUNSELOR SEPTEMBER 19 THAT GOP WAS DISAPPOINTED AT TEN-DAY DELAY IN BEGINNING OF POW

REPATRIATION FOLLOWING START OF BENGAL-EE-BIHARI EXCHANGE
AND WAS ALSO UNHAPPY OVER RATE AT WHICH GOI INTENDED
CARRY OUT POW RETURN. ACCORDING BHATTY, PAKS HAD BEEN
INFORMED THAT GOI INTENDED DISPATCH ONE SPECIAL TRAIN
CARRYING POWS TO BORDER EVERY TWO DAYS. ASSUMING THAT
EACH TRAIN BROUGHT 1,500 POWS, THIS WOULD WORK OUT TO JUST
OVER 22,000 RETURNED PER MONTH. AT THIS RATE, BHATTY
COMPLAINED, COMPLETION OF POW REPATRIATION WOULD TAKE
MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS AND EXTEND WELL INTO 1974.
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